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ICE AS A TOPICAL REMEDY IN CERTAIN CASES OF POISONED WOUNDS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The intense suffering, as well as the danger to life in some instances, from the stings of bees, wasps, and other insects capable of inflicting such wounds, very properly constitute them objects of profound interest with the practitioners of medicine, and would seem to justify any reasonable efforts in the way of innovation, to improve their treatment. In this view the following communication is drawn up and presented to the profession.

Until within the last nine years, I had employed the ordinary topical remedies so familiar with practitioners in the management of cases of bee, wasp, yellow-jacket and hornet stings; and although faithfully applied, I had often to regret that they were so generally ineffectual, or tardy in affording relief. Such unsatisfactory results, very soon after I commenced the practice of medicine, induced me to attempt some improvement, or rather a modification of the plans already in use. But it was not until the year 1830 that I found myself in possession of a mode of treating these painful accidents more in accordance with my views and wishes.

About the middle of the spring of the year referred to, my attention was first directed to the use of *ice* as a topical remedy in bee-sting; and the idea, as well as the first case in which I used it, occurred very nearly simultaneously. The case, however, had precedence a few seconds, as the thought of employing the ice in such cases was suggested to my mind while I was hastening to the relief of one of my small children, who had just experienced a severe bee-sting on the lower lid of the left eye. In this case I instantly applied a piece of ice to the wounded part, sufficiently large to cover the lid and a considerable portion of the parts contiguous; and, by a most fortunate coincidence, the ice was already broken up, and directly in my way to the child, which enabled me to use it under the most favorable circumstances for relief, and for a fair trial of it in such a case. The child ceased crying almost instantly, declaring that it was relieved of the pain of the sting. It very soon after, however, began to complain of pain from the ice, which required its momentary removal. After the aching moderated it was again applied for a few minutes, but required to be removed temporarily from time to time, until half an hour had been consumed. I applied the ice to

the parts so as to compress them, with a view of depressing the temperature as well as their vitality decidedly, and to some extent, in the hope that by obtunding their sensibility, and at the same time suspending the circulatory operation, I might relieve pain, and prevent the swelling so apt to follow in such cases; and my hopes were more than realized by the result.

As if to confirm my views, and to establish my confidence relative to the efficacy of ice in treating stings as speedily as possible, a case, precisely similar to the one already related, occurred the next day in my own person. My lower eyelid was stung about the inferior margin of the tarsus, from which I experienced the most intense suffering. Fortunately I had it in my power to use the ice instantly, and before, as in my child's case, the least swelling followed. The pain ceased almost the instant the ice touched the part, and did not again recur. Applying the remedy myself, it was removed before the aching, which distressed the child so much, became painful; but it was again and again applied and removed in alternations, until fully half an hour's time had been consumed; and finally the ice was laid aside altogether, without being followed by any return of the original pain, or the least swelling of the parts.

Since these, my first trials with the ice, I have repeatedly employed it in similar cases, and with the most satisfactory success; and I now use it in preference to all other remedies in cases of stings, when to be had. The ice, to be effectual, should be applied before the parts swell, and always so decidedly as to benumb and deaden their sensibility. This will at once and effectually relieve the pain from the sting, and at the same time prevent those distressing constitutional symptoms which sometimes follow: it will also effectually guard against the temporary deformity from the swellings which so constantly result from stings under the ordinary modes of treatment.

With very young children, and when, too, the stings are inflicted near the eyes, or any other delicate part, which might be endangered by using some of the irritating means usually employed in such cases, the ice will prove a most valuable remedy. It will be found exceedingly useful, likewise, for the prompt and efficient relief it affords in treating the accident, when it occurs with individuals of peculiar susceptibilities, which occasionally render bee or wasp stings fatal, and suddenly so.

Ice seems to act, in the cases referred to, very nearly as cold water, but more powerfully; and its action, too, may be assimilated to that of cupping glasses, inasmuch as it suspends the centripetal actions as well as the organic circulation, for a limited period, thereby preventing the diffusion of the poison, as well as most of the constitutional symptoms usually resulting from it. It is more efficient than cupping glasses, and infinitely more applicable on the score of convenience, as it may be applied to any external region of the body with ease and safety; it can also be applied to the internal parts from the mouth to the stomach; and it may be rendered more or less powerful in its depressing operation upon the vital actions, as may be required by the degree of violence or extent of the injury.

I am inclined to believe, that the ice in these cases not only relieves pain, and prevents the diffusion of the poison from the sting, by its powerful action as a sedative, but that it also decomposes the poison, or, in some inexplicable way, deprives it of some property—perhaps a volatile principle, which may be necessary for its ready distribution and operation as such, with the constitution. In this opinion I am supported by the fact, that swellings and soreness rarely, if ever, follow stings, after ice has been efficiently applied, and in due time. It can hardly be supposed to operate remediately by diluting, and in that way to weaken the poison so as to render it inert. The fluid formed by the melting of ice, when applied to a stung part, would not be likely to enter so delicate a puncture as that formed by a sting, in sufficient quantity to dilute the poison, so as to wash it away, or to render it inert. That the poison, in every case of sting, is usually deposited in the textures through the puncture formed by the sting, cannot be questioned; and I will add, completely beyond the action of any other but the most attenuated fluids.

May not a more prolonged and decided application of the ice prove equally beneficial in the management of every species of poisoned wound from insects, reptiles, and even rabid animals? I think it may; and should cases occur, I shall certainly give it a fair trial in their treatment.

If any record of the use of ice, in treating poisoned wounds, exists, I am totally ignorant of it. I am sensible that cold water has been often recommended in the cases in question—nay, it has frequently been employed by myself. But as far as I know to the contrary, this is the first written account of the use of ice as a remedy in poisoned wounds of the kind here considered. JOHN P. METTAUER, M.D., of Virginia.

Prince Edward C. H., Oct. 26, 1839.

TEMPERANCE IN ALL THINGS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Though I had your permission, some time ago, to present a few thoughts to your readers on the subject of temperance in all things, or, as some call it, ultra-temperance, yet I might never have availed myself of the opportunity afforded by your generous offer, had not our brother "Senex" come out, in recent numbers of your Journal, with views so strange that I felt myself compelled to speak. Thus we are sometimes, as the scriptures say, "provoked" to "good works," when no other motive will draw us out of the ordinary routine of selfishness.

Allow me to begin my course of remarks by noticing the criticisms of one of your correspondents, of about a year ago, on my little book on "Vegetable Diet;" and by presenting a few thoughts in the way of self-defence.

Your correspondent, in No. 12, Vol. XIX., after introducing me to the medical public as an author, and saying many good things of my general intentions, proceeds to say of me: "He has joined Mr. Graham and a small band of kindred spirits, and is earnest and eloquent in

denouncing the use of flesh, and applauding the virtues of abstinence and starvation."

But where, Mr. Editor, is the evidence that I have joined Mr. Graham? Is it found in the fact that the Graham Journal sometimes quotes from my writings? But this is done to at least an equal extent by the Thomsonians. Why not infer, then, that I have joined the Thomsonians? Is it said that I have disclaimed this? So have I, from the very first—and with equal distinctness—disclaimed Grahamism. Is the evidence to be found in the fact that the Grahamites *claim* that I belong to their party? But so do the Thomsonians; or so, at least, they *have* done. Is it because I have presided, some two or three years, over a society of inquiry on the subject of health, a part of whose members—but a part only—are Grahamites? Is it found in the fact that this society, of which I am president, is accustomed to publish its proceedings in the Graham Journal, because, as I suppose, no other paper or journal will admit its proceedings to its columns, at least without considerable expense? Or is it found, lastly, in the fact that among other items of improvements which I would introduce into social life, is the disuse, the general disuse, of flesh as an article of food? Not that I denounce flesh entirely, and in all circumstances; for this I have never done. I have only, at the most, attempted to show "a more excellent way," as a general fact, than to use it. Yet if this is joining Mr. Graham, then Professor Mussey, and a host of others who have abandoned the use of flesh meat, have also joined him; though many of them, as is well known, would repel the idea of being regarded as his disciples—perhaps with indignation. Nay, more still; on this principle I see not but it must follow that the Bible Society of Christians, a sect which sprung up in England 30 years ago, but which now numbers near a thousand communicants, with one or two colonies in this country, must be Grahamites, for they, too, reject flesh. True, they never heard of Mr. Graham, as a teacher on this subject, nor did any body else, till about seven or eight years ago; but then, if we make abstinence from flesh meat, whatever may have led us to abstain, the test of discipleship, they are surely Grahamites. So with Dr. Lamb and his followers in England, during the last 40 years; so with Dr. Cheyne, 200 years ago; and so with the Pythagoreans, the Essenes, the Persians and the Egyptians; indeed, so—out of Britain and the United States—with the "bone and sinew" of the world in all known ages, to the present time. The majority of the hard-working classes have been and still are—though it be from necessity—vegetable eaters.

But it is not true that I have joined Mr. Graham, nor that I have been earnest or eloquent in "applauding the virtues of abstinence and starvation." In this respect, no less than in many others, I am often wholly misrepresented. I am so, both by the writer in question, and by your correspondent Senex; and though I have sometimes resolved to bear these misrepresentations in silence—and would do so were personal reputation alone concerned—yet it does appear to me, on the whole, that the time has arrived when a regard to the public good demands that

I should defend myself so far as to state distinctly and implicitly, but briefly, what my purposes are.

What I have in view, then, is neither more nor less than to aid in carrying out the great object of Christianity—TO MAKE MANKIND BETTER. I suppose that the instructers and elevators of mankind have hitherto—very generally—made a serious mistake, in not endeavoring to elevate, in due proportion, their *whole* nature. They have hoped to raise man, *intellectually and morally*, and have labored in season and out of season, to accomplish this object, without doing much for him *physically*. They seem to have forgotten to look for his redemption "wholly"—as Paul expresses it—"body, soul and spirit." This has greatly retarded—and in my view continues to retard—the wheels of reform. Attempts to inculcate on mankind the necessity of obeying the Creator's natural laws, as well as his moral ones, have been very few indeed. In our feeble, vacillating, half-earnest efforts to obey revealed law, the laws within and around us have been, very generally, overlooked or practically disregarded.

Moreover, wherever human reformation has been attempted in a rational manner, it has usually been with a primary reference to those whose characters of body and mind are already, in a good degree, fixed. The most aimed at has been *correction;* few, indeed, have done much in the way of *prevention*, or seemed to appreciate the importance of applying their efforts in this particular department.

In attempting, as I have done, during the last few years, to prevent some of the *physical evils* which prevail among us, and to promote *physical good*, I have found it my duty to make war, to a very great extent, on existing customs and usages. I have been compelled to complain of quackery, in various forms, both regular and unlicensed. I have complained both of neglect of education, and mis-education. I have pleaded, to some extent, the cause of natural law. I have appealed to parents and masters and teachers, especially on the subject of correct physical education. I have tried to turn off the public attention, in part at least, from office seeking and pleasure chasing and money making, and direct it to the best good of the rising generation. Among other classes to whom I have appealed, have been the proprietors of shops and factories. I have sought to direct attention, here, to the health and morals of the operatives. I have spoken of the laws and relations of the human constitution, and have urged, with all the earnestness in my power, the importance and necessity of making the study of these laws exceedingly prominent in all our families and schools. I have even ventured on the opinion that neither the professed disciples of Jesus Christ, nor their teachers, can become as perfect as they desire to be, while they continue, in a highly civilized state of society, to neglect, as they have hitherto done, these laws and relations.

In endeavoring, from time to time, to explain some of these laws, and to point to some of these relations, it has appeared to be my duty to advert to many daily violations of natural law, within us and around us. I have spoken of the various forms of intemperance which exist in society, whether in regard to one appetite or another, and whether from

privation, irregularity or excess—of air, exercise, food, drink, sleep, recreations, employment, study, &c. I have endeavored to expose error, both as regards quantity and quality.

As long as what I taught corresponded with the views of Combe and others of the same school of philosophy, all has seemed to go on very smoothly. But whenever, in the expression of my own independent opinion, I have departed one iota from received doctrines—the most *fashionable fashion* in opinion—an outcry has been raised. I have said but little, that is *comparatively*, on the subject of dietetics, but have expended the far greater proportion of my efforts in endeavoring to remove that murderous quackery, moral and physical, which everywhere prevails, and the ignorance in which it thrives. Still, whenever I have touched upon any topic which led inevitably to the inculcation of self-denial—to the restraint of any one of the *three animal appetites*—it has been my lot to awaken, most strongly, the opposition of those whose bodies are not kept in due subjection, as well as of some from whom we might hope better things. My remarks have called forth, at times, whole torrents, not of sober argument, but of ridicule and reproach. Argument, had it been elicited, I should have been prepared to meet. Those who have opposed my views, in the columns of your Journal, have, without the slightest exception, fallen into the error of assailing me with confident assertions, reproaches or ridicule, or at most with arguments that were obsolete, not to say worn threadbare.

This species of opposition will never do. The cause I have espoused —be it true or untrue—is not to be put down by ridicule and reproach; by crying out "bran bread and water," "starvation," "mad-dog," or "Grahamism." Such outcries may deter people from inquiry for a little while, but they soon lose their effect. And I say again, that if I am to be put down at all, it must be by sober argument.

But enough of mere personal defence. It was painful to me to begin with such a course of remark, and it is exceedingly gratifying to me to close it. Under various heads, such as the Natural Food of Man, Artificial Drinks, Temperance, Longevity, &c., I propose to meet, in a few successive numbers of your Journal, everything worth answering which your correspondents have brought against the views I entertain; and also to show, to every candid and ingenuous medical man, that the reform at which I aim, is one at which—as a lover of just medical science as well as of intelligence, virtue, and sound piety—he could not fail to rejoice. It is in truth—I repeat it—the application of Christianity, pure and undefiled, to the physical condition and physical and moral redemption and renovation of man. Yours, &c.

Dedham, Oct. 31st, 1839. WM. A. ALCOTT.

ULTRAISM.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

INNOVATION is the order of the day. It pervades every class and calling in the community. From the elevated statesman, who devises

the laws and regulations which bind together the different elements of which society is composed, down to the most obscure mechanic in the most insignificant art, it is the *presiding genius.* This is as it should be. We are wiser than were our fathers, and we are willing to believe that our children will be wiser than ourselves. Were it not for this spirit of change and innovation, the world would forever remain *in statu quo;* the condition of man would cease to be gradually improving, and the whole human race, like the Egyptians of old, would relapse back into a state of darkness, ignorance and doubt. If it had not been for this love of change implanted in the human breast, we should never have heard of those modern discoveries and inventions, that show the ingenuity of man, and assert the sovereignty of the human mind.

It is only when this spirit is carried to extremes—when it runs into ultraism, that it becomes subversive of the good it would otherwise accomplish. And, unfortunately, this spirit of innovation has of late years been too often carried to extremes, and especially has this been the case in medical science.

We often hear it remarked that this is an age of realities—an age unfavorable to poetical fictions, to airy speculations and visionary theories. But this remark is the farthest possible from truth. Men now indulge themselves in as wild dreams, as visionary fancies, and as absurd speculations, as ever they did in the most palmy days of chivalry, when courtly knights and crazy squires wandered about the country, seeking adventures, armed to the teeth against giants, and for the especial protection of bewildered maidens. What! call this an age of reality and common sense, when animal magnetism is attracting the wonder and astonishment of the world! Call this an age of reason, when homœopathy, with all its glaring absurdity and ridiculous theories, finds its advocates! Call this an unvisionary age, when the pale, half-starved vegetable-eater comes forward with his consumptive visage and emaciated limbs, and tells you that he is the "properest" formed man —that his limbs are fashioned in the mould of beauty! and when he farther tells you that the abundance of flesh with which the Almighty has filled the earth was not made to be eaten—that the innumerable herds that roam over the thousand hills were not provided for the benefit and sustenance of man—that man must live upon the herb—when, I say, he tells you these things, and finds those who believe him and endeavor to follow his precepts, would you believe that you existed in an age of reality and common sense?

It is now almost impossible for a man to become known and popular in the medical profession by straight-forward, plain common sense. He must be the author of some monstrous theory, or the starter of some novel doctrine, if he would get his name up. Talk of moderation, of reason, and of an intellect that is able to demonstrate all its assertions! It will do well to talk of these qualities, but they will avail us but little in the profession of medicine at this epoch of time. Moderation is trampled under foot; every one imagines himself possessed of common sense, and men are now too much engaged in gathering up the gear of this world to permit them to listen to demonstration. It is, therefore,

nothing but startling assertions, which cannot be maintained by reason, that now attract the attention of the world in our profession.

If, then, you would wish to aspire to eminence in the science of medicine, you must launch out, and go the whole figure in something. Become the advocate of some new theory, or some dogma dropped from the overflowing mind of some great man. No matter how absurd the doctrine you advocate. The more absurd, the more conspicuous you will appear, if you can contrive to make yourself as wild and as enthusiastic in its support as the doctrine itself is revolting and ridiculous. If you can hit upon no other way to make yourself notorious, become a Grahamite, an animal magnetizer, a steamer, or anything, in fact. No matter what you take up in our profession; if you only become somewhat insane and inspired in its support, your fortune and your reputation are made.

We often talk of merit succeeding in the medical profession. But small is the chance for merit, when it has to compete with brow-beating impudence. Modest merit will always stand abashed to hear impudence proclaim its virtues and its many acquirements. It matters not how small a man's talents are, or how few are his acquired abilities; if he is able to puff himself, he will surely succeed.

Let not, then, the medical tyro rely on his talents, his learning and his acquirements, for success in the profession. Talents, if he does not have a peculiar faculty of showing them, will lie buried, and the people will trample on them in contempt; while the blusterer, with scarcely a scrap of learning and less honor, will be raised into favor. I would not here speak lightly of learning and science in the medical profession; science and application are the only qualities that can make a medical man truly great. But let him be cautious, lest, whilst he is giving his attention to scientific investigations, the quack, the mere pretender, the man without merit or honor, run away with all the profit of the profession.

I have known a quack who was not acquainted with even the first rudiments of the science of medicine, go into a city, and by mere dint of blustering and puffing, gull the people out of more money than all the rest of the physicians of the city received for all their hard services. He was a Grahamite—he was a Thomsonian—a vender of nostrums, and a puffer of placebos—and the people brought unto him their lame, their halt and their blind, and even besought him to touch them, as if they believed him possessed of the powers of a Saviour. And they would have continued to think him a superior being, if he had not unfortunately committed an extensive forgery, and cleared out with another man's wife, leaving the sick to heal the sick, and the dead to bury their dead.

I would again say to the young practitioner, if you wish to succeed, become an ultraist, an enthusiast, a monomaniac, or, indeed, anything that may attract the attention of the people. If you are a scientific man, you must, in these days, use quackery, in order to bring your science into action. Quackery must be your van guard, but science the body of your force. Without your van guard, you would be taken by

surprise; and without science, you are weak and puerile, just fit to contend with

> The noisy quack, who by profession lies,
> And utters falsehoods of enormous size.

Gray (Me.), Oct., 1839. N. H. ALLEN.

LABOR WITHOUT PAIN.

[A CORRESPONDENT in Virginia, to whom we are indebted for many favors, has kindly related the following case, which occurred in the practice of Dr. J. N. Powell, an eminent practitioner in that State.]

In the year 1834 (February 5th), says Dr. Powell, I was requested to visit a servant woman, the property of Mr. Jno. L. Bailey, who was represented to me *as being in labor*. Upon my arrival, the old midwife directed my attention to a huge mass of something, lying upon the bed, of which, she informed me, the woman had just been delivered. By this time I had been in sufficiently long to know that if the woman had been in labor, she was not then so; for she had no parturient pains, the abdominal tumor had subsided, and the *uterus* contracted. I was myself at first at a loss to conceive the character of the product, but upon examining it, soon discovered it was a *fœtus* enveloped in the membranes, precisely as *in utero*, except that the *placenta* had been detached from the *uterus*, and expelled along with the fœtus and membranes. I ruptured the membranes; the *liquor amnii* was discharged, and a full-grown fœtus exhibited to view, occupying the exact position that it had done in the *uterus*, and illustrating the force of the expression of the celebrated Hogarth, that "it was an excellent living specimen of retirement from the world." The umbilical cord still *feebly* pulsated (scarcely perceptible), and I attempted its resuscitation, but in vain; it was too late.

This is the first instance of the kind that has come under my observation in an extensive practice of 6 or 8 years; and I don't know that I have seen *a similar case recorded*. The process of labor is usually *gradual*, exhibiting regular and successive phenomena, and giving a timely premonition of the approaching event. But in this case most of the incipient indications of labor were absent, and the condition of the *os uteri*, as to dilatation and resistance, being favorable, when pain supervened, by one powerful contractile effort of the womb *all its contents were expelled*; thus verifying the language of the distinguished Harvey —"*Fœtus ejicitur, potius quam paritur.*"

ON VACCINATION.

BY EDWARD LEESE, ESQ., M.R.C.S.

IN different ages of the world, more human beings have been destroyed by the ravages of smallpox, than by any other known disease; consequently there cannot be a medical subject of greater interest and im-

portance to society, than the attainment of care and knowledge with regard to the properties of the *vaccine lymph*, and the best mode of conducting *vaccination*, so as to call forth the prophylactic powers with which it is endowed. To show the average number of those who take variola after vaccination, many statistical accounts have come before the public; none more startling than that from the Smallpox Hospital at St. Pancras; but when we take into consideration the grade of persons who are generally the patients of that institution, our marvelling will somewhat abate; they being such as very probably had been vaccinated in the most careless manner, and whose representations as to what had previously been produced in their arms cannot always be depended upon. Had an account of the vaccination done by their own officers accompanied this document, a very marked difference would, no doubt, have been apparent; and it is consolatory to find that their report is at variance with the result of my own practice, as also differing, exceedingly, from the statements of others—some taking their rise from the experience of men who have had before them wide fields for observation. That taken from official records for the district of Chelsea, by Mr. Barrett Marshall, carries with it the genuine marks of sound, practical information, and for careful personal investigation is particularly conspicuous.

That vaccination does generally, and for the most part, afford protection against variola, has been proved by the immense numbers that have, at different times since the year 1798, been submitted to it; and if this lymph, derived from the cow, possesses power to secure, with slight suffering, and no danger, 95 or 90 individuals in every hundred, why should it in a few instances disappoint our wishes and expectations? Some men have supposed the virus to have lost, by repeated transmissions through the human subject, a portion of those properties it in the first instance possessed. With other morbific poisons this is not found to be the case, nor is it with our ancient and destructive enemy, *variola*. The matter of this disease, and the infection, are as virulent in our time as they were when first described by Rhazes, and other Arabian physicians. If several individuals be inoculated from one and the same pustule, the symptoms in each may differ, as the idiosyncrasy of each may vary; in one the disease may be mild and distinct, in another severe, confluent and fatal; still, either of these forms may produce its reverse without our option; and if the mortality be not now as great as heretofore, it is to the better condition of our cities—of our habitations, ventilation, mode of living, and the improved method of treating the disease, we are to look for the alteration, rather than to the disease *per se*; the *materia morbi* has ever been the same; the germ of the disease is developed *de novo* in each instance; the effects alone are modified by the extrinsic circumstances. So with regard to the vaccine lymph; there does not appear to be any good or well-founded reason for supposing it to have lost any portion of those properties it possessed in the time of Jenner.

Smallpox has sometimes followed its use, not because the lymph itself has degenerated, but in consequence of the feeble and scanty manner

in which it has been applied; *not* in the material, but in the manipulation of it, lies the fault. As before stated, all human constitutions are not alike, neither is the susceptibility to variola alike in every person; one may be partially, or for a time only—another may appear fully and permanently secured by the agency of a *single vesicle*, which at best can make an impression slight only in degree, extending but feebly through the general system, or perchance, may be as local and circumscribed as a boil of the most trivial kind.

An attempt to explain the precise nature of that change in the human economy which generally prevents the recurrence of measles, scarlatina, smallpox, and other specific diseases, as they are termed, would here be merely a waste of time, whether it be in the blood, or the vessels containing the circulating fluid; in the brain, or sentient extremities of the nerves; but this we know, that "*pyrexia*" is a never-failing symptom, accompanying either of these diseases; and this analogy supports the belief that to bring into effect the permanent prophylactic powers of vaccine lymph, a *certain quantum* of *symptomatic fever* must be excited, as a *sine qua non*; and if a solitary vesicle be now and then sufficient, *à fortiori*, a larger number will be more sure to produce this desirable change. A wide range is open to us ere it reach the intensity at all times accompanying variola, but it never has, by any mode of practice, been so excited as to hazard the life of the patient, much less to propagate and diffuse through a neighborhood either contagion or infection.

The cases of smallpox after vaccination that have fallen under my observation, have always shown the former to be modified by the previous vaccine process, and the severity as well as the duration of the dangerous symptoms to be mitigated in proportion to the number of existing cicatrices, and these I take to be presumptive evidence as to the degree of constitutional impression made by the vaccination; such an opinion is amply sustained by the effects which follow a repetition of vaccination.

During the year 1838 about 300 persons, of various ages, applied at the station in Baker street to be re-vaccinated; in many 15 to 25 years had intervened since the former application of vaccine lymph; in others more than 30 years, having been done by various practitioners in different parts of the empire; to each of these individuals "fluid virus" was applied by me, by three punctures in each arm; of these patients 235 attended subsequently for inspection, when the appearances were noted in the register; and by reference to this we find that 88 of them had but *one* vaccine cicatrix; 95 had *two*; 22 had *three*; 23 had *four*; 3 had *five*; 4 had *six*. The degree of intensity and duration of effect arising from the second application of fluid virus, was evidently governed more by the number of vaccine cicatrices already existing, than by the lapse of time intervening. A glance at the table on the following page will exemplify this fact.

Thus it would appear that those who already bore *five or six cicatrices* of vaccination almost wholly resisted the action of virus a second time; of those who had *three* or *four* cicatrices, a small portion only showed much effect; whereas in those who had but *one* or even *two* cicatrices, the

effect was almost invariably great, the vesicles progressing regularly, having areola on the 8th or 9th day, with the usual febrile excitement, in consequence of the imperfect and superficial manner in which they had been previously vaccinated, rather than of the interval that had elapsed, the degree of intensity being in the inverse ratio to that of the former application. The case is similar with regard to smallpox occurring after vaccination, its symptoms and duration being mitigated in proportion to the intensity of the vaccine process.

Number of Patients Re-vaccinated.	Number of Cicatrices in each Patient.	Degree of intensity by Re-vaccination.	
		Effect slight.	Effect great—perfect vesicles and areolæ.
In . . . 88	1	9	79
95	2	21	74
22	3	7	15
23	4	19	4
3	5	3	—
4	6	4	—
235			

As such pathological principles as I have here brought into view (published as far back as the year 1812, and more particularly in 1833), have guided my practice for more than thirty years, I am in the habit of making in my patients, with fluid virus, *three punctures in each arm*, and do not rest satisfied unless these, or at least *four* of them, take effect. In the prophylactic efficacy of vaccine virus, when administered with fair and proper degree of force, I feel confident, and do not doubt but that the human constitution may be secured thereby against all the dangers of smallpox.—*London Lancet.*

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BOSTON, DECEMBER 4, 1839.

LECTURES ON PHRENOLOGY.*

Mr. Colman, a New York publisher, with whose enterprise we are all familiar, as he formerly resided in Boston, has given the public a volume which will be read with delight by all who love the study of nature. Mr. Andrew Boardman, Secretary of the Phrenological Society of New York, when Mr. Combe commenced his series of lectures in that city the last winter, agreed to furnish certain newspapers with condensed reports. These were read with avidity by the great public, throughout the country, and in that way those who entertained erroneous views of the science of phrenology, were shown that the Edinburgh philosopher was not only a profound reasoner, but a teacher to whom the most learned might listen

* Lectures on Phrenology, by George Combe, Esq., including its application to the present and prospective condition of the United States. With notes, an introductory essay, and an historical sketch, by Andrew Boardman. New York: Samuel Colman. 8vo., p. 382. 1839.

with profit and increasing satisfaction. These reports are contained in the present volume.

In the preface there is a sort of paragraphic description of Mr. Combe's personal appearance, even to the color of his hair. Now this is a little too minute; the reporter might have waited a while—for he has fairly robbed some future biographer of item after item which constitute the very cream of a great man's description after he is dead. Again, we protest against the black, six-inch profile caricature of the lecturer, facing the title page. It is puerile: it lessens the dignity of the subject, and exhibits a gentleman, for whom we entertain the warmest feelings of respect, as an object to be shown off like a Nemean lion.

An essay on the phrenological mode of investigation, is an admirable paper. If this emanated exclusively from Mr. Boardman, it is evident that his brain is a most noble organ. As we have no room to dwell upon it, much as we should like to show its good sense and its beauties, nor an opportunity for analyzing the sketch of the rise, progress and present condition of phrenology, an extensive domain must necessarily be passed by, as a traveller in a stage-coach sweeps by a succession of cultivated fields and verdant landscapes, regretting that he has not leisure for enjoying the whole without interruption.

Finally, at the ninety-first page, the proper subject matter of the book begins, viz., lectures on phrenology and its application. From our recollection of what we heard the lecturer say in Boston, in the first course he delivered in this country, we are impressed with the accuracy of the reporter. In some sentences the language seems to be exactly the same—and with respect to the spirit of the discourses, it is all there—no evaporation has taken place. We do not wish to conceal the fact that we like the book right well; and with respect to Mr. Combe, we are proud to say that we still believe—what was often declared in this Journal on his first arrival, and before our cotemporaries had begun to comment—that he is fully entitled to all the civilities, hospitalities and attentions from our countrymen, which a philosopher of universal fame has a right to expect among a people proud of their institutions, their independence, and their freedom from prejudice against the literati of the old world.

Experiments on the Action of the Heart.—An unpretending little pamphlet, of eighteen pages, entitled "Report of Experiments on the Action of the Heart, by C. W. Pennock, M.D., Physician to the Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley, and E. M. Moore, M.D., late physician to the Frankford Asylum," contains some important facts, which, to the physiologist, are of the highest import. The gentlemen, who show themselves so admirably qualified to continue the subject, ought not to rest from their labors till they have reared a monument, by their united industry, that will be honorable to the age, to their own memories, and to the progress of science in the new world. It is because the number who manifest an enterprising spirit in the field of physiological research, in this country, is so small, that we are anxious to have something done which shall be creditable to the profession of the United States. Having been read before the Philadelphia Pathological Society, and published in the Medical Examiner, it would hardly be proper to republish any of the experiments here, although the temptation is a very strong one.

English Surgeons.—Dr. Gibson, Professor of Surgery, &c., in the University of Penn., in his introductory Lecture, November, 1839, observes —"Next to Sir Astley Cooper, the most prominent surgeon of London, perhaps, is Sir Benjamin Brodie, long one of the principal lecturers of the great Hunterian school of St. George's Hospital. Among the 400 inmates there, I last year saw many diseased joints. I asked him if he amputated as many as formerly; he said 'not a twentieth part: I manage by rest, position, splints, diet.' I was delighted by such candor. I had long condemned, in my lectures, the numerous operations recommended in his work, substituting the simple, efficient remedies which he had mentioned.

"What medical man, from any country, would visit London without seeing Wm. Lawrence, well known to the whole world for extent and variety of information, an anatomist and surgeon, a superior being! Amidst a crowd of admiring pupils, in the large, numerous wards of St. Bart.'s Hospital, I saw him closely question each patient's symptoms, prescribe very carefully, and take deep interest in each. There were several long-standing cancerous breasts (one of 11 years), for which most gentle palliatives only were employed. He had 'long known that many such breasts, if let alone, would not prove fatal for a long time; but, if they were extirpated, the disease would return speedily and with immense suffering.'

"At the North London Hospital, Mr. Liston, turning quickly to a dresser who had covered a wound with cerate, said, 'what benefit from that grease! pray take it away.'—A respectable lady, her husband and daughter, strongly desired and implored to have a cancerous breast removed. He examined very closely, and finding the glands of the arm-pit enlarged, said, 'let the breast alone, you may live for years; if I cut it out it will return in three months, and you will die.'"

Asylum for the Blind, Virginia.—Dr. J. C. M. Merrilat, principal, and Mr. William Graham, teacher of the blind in the Asylum, have both arrived at Staunton, Virg., and the institution is to go into immediate operation. No account has been received of an appointment of a physician to the Insane Asylum in that town, in the place of Dr. Stribling, who resigned some weeks ago. It is presumed that the trustees will find it somewhat difficult to make that gentleman's place good.

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Howard, late a Professor in the Medical Department of the University of Maryland, has been appointed Professor of Medicine in the University of Virginia, and has accepted the appointment. —No. 1, of the 4th volume, of Dr. Bell's Select Medical Library and Eclectic Journal of Medicine has come to hand, and exhibits no diminution of interest in either department. This No. of the Library commences Holland's Medical Notes and Reflections.—A late No. of the Philadelphia Medical Examiner contains the report of a case of extra-uterine pregnancy, by Charles D. Meigs, M.D., with a lithographic engraving.—A black frost has finally appeared at Natchez, and with it returning health.—Dr. J. O'Conner Barclay, Assistant Surgeon of the Navy, is ordered to the Navy Yard, Charlestown, Mass.; and Dr. R. W. Jaffrey, Assistant Surgeon, is required to go on board the Schooner Wave.—Vol. II. of Dr. Gross's beautiful work on Pathological Anatomy is finishing. Marsh,

Capen, Lyon & Webb, the publishers, may be addressed for single copies, which might be transmitted by gentlemen who happen to be visiting Boston on business.—Several engravings, illustrating the appearance and mode of applying Dr. Heber Chase's instruments, are on hand, to be used as soon as space can be had to introduce them.—Smallpox has appeared in several towns in the vicinity of Boston.—Dr. Butler, late of Worcester, has taken up his official residence at the South Boston Institutions.—Dr. Webster's Chemistry is now publishing. His curious experiments of late, and particularly the solidification of carbonic acid gas, at the Medical College, Mason street, have afforded peculiar gratification to audiences capable of appreciating their merit.—Dr. Henry Frost, of Westmoreland, Virginia, has had the honorary degree of Doctor in Medicine conferred upon him by the Berkshire Medical Institution.—The number of suicides which have been recently committed in England is exciting the serious attention of the public. In London they are thought to average one a day.—From a return made to the British Parliament by the coroners of England and Wales, for the last two years, it appears that in that time no fewer than 192 persons were *accidentally* poisoned, mostly through the carelessness or ignorance of apothecaries.—One hundred and eighty students were matriculated at the opening of the Medical Institute at Louisville, Ky.,—an excellent beginning.—The boring for an Artesian well in the plain of Grenelle has been carried to the depth of 483 metres, without arriving at a source of water. It has, however, been discovered that the temperature increases one degree for every 39 metres of depth, and it is hence probable, that when water does ascend it will be at the temperature of a warm bath.—Dr. Kopp, of Hanau, strongly recommends the following formula in scrofulous ophthalmia. R. Ext. conium, ʒi.; cinnamon water, ʒiv. Dissolve. To children from 2 to 3 years and upwards, four drops thrice a day, gradually increasing the dose by one drop.

NOTICES.—D. W. Seiders, of Waldboro', Me., is authorized to act as agent for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal and the American Medical Almanac.

The attention of subscribers is again directed to the fact that their subscription money may be sent through the postmasters of their respective towns. The following is an extract of a letter from the Postmaster General to an Editor in Rhode Island.

"A Postmaster may inclose money in a letter to the publisher of a newspaper, to pay the subscription of a third person, and frank the letter, if written by himself.

AMOS KENDALL."

Subscribers in Massachusetts are also reminded that an opportunity to make remittances by their representatives, on their annual visit to Boston, will soon be afforded.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Nov. 30, 38. Males, 20—females, 18.

Of consumption, 6—scarlet fever, 3—smallpox, 9—infantile, 3—apoplexy, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—old age, 1—syphilis, 1—debility, 1—lung fever, 1—sudden, 1—bilious fever, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—casualty, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—tumor, 1—fits, 1—child-bed, 1—stillborn, 4.

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Boston, August 1, 1838. tf.

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H. G. WILEY, M.D.

Oct 9—eop

SCHOOL FOR MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for receiving pupils, and affording them every facility for obtaining a complete medical education. Their pupils will have access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and to surgical operations in private practice. Instruction will be given by examinations and lectures in the interval of the public lectures at the Medical College. Facilities will be afforded for the prosecution of practical anatomy. A room is provided with books, &c., for the use of the students.

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JOHN B. S. JACKSON,
ROBERT W. HOOPER,
J. MASON WARREN.

Oct. 9—tf

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and where opportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their professional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examinations or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructers.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.
WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.

Oct. 31—eptf

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JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Boston, Nov. 20, 1839. ep1meop6m

VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any section of the United States can procure ten quills charged with PURE VACCINE VIRUS, by return mail, on addressing the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, enclosing one dollar, *post paid*, without which no letter will be taken from the post office. June 19

TREATMENT OF HERNIA.—E. W. LEACH, M.D. Office No. 134 Hanover street, Boston.

References.—John C. Warren, M.D.; George C. Shattuck, M.D.; John Ware, M.D.; John Jeffries, M.D.; Edward Reynolds, M.D., Boston. W. J. Walker, M.D., Charlestown.

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